

Claims:

- ~~1.~~ A water treatment method comprising:
- receiving water into a treatment area;
 - introducing light into said treatment area from a laser as said water passes through said treatment area, wherein microorganisms contained within said water are reactive to said light and are killed; and
 - providing said water from said treatment area to a point of use.
2. The method of claim 1 wherein said point of use is after a port formed in a head located at the end of a dental handpiece whereby water exits said dental handpiece and enters a patient's mouth.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein said point of use is after a treatment area located near the head of a dental handpiece.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein said treatment area is a treatment area wherein water and light converge.
5. The method of claim 2 wherein said point of use is located after a head of the dental handpiece.
6. The method of claim 2 wherein said laser beam is controlled by a switching mechanism located in said dental handpiece.
7. The method of claim 1 wherein said treatment area is located near said point of use.
8. The method of claim 1 wherein said treatment area is located within a dental handpiece.

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9. The method of claim 1 wherein said light is provided to said treatment area via an optical fiber coupled to a laser.

10. A water treatment system, comprising:

a treatment area further comprising an entry point for receiving water from input tubing connected to the input portion of said treatment area and an exit point for providing water passing through said treatment area to a point of use; and

a laser light source coupled to said treatment area for delivery of light into said treatment area;

wherein microorganisms are sensitive to light from said laser light source and are killed as said light penetrates and treats water flowing through said treatment area.

11. The method of claim 10 wherein said treatment area is located near said point of use of said water treatment system.

12. The water treatment system of claim 10 wherein said treatment area is located near a distal end of a dental handpiece.

13. The water treatment system of claim 12 further comprising a head removably connectable to said dental handpiece at said exit point of said treatment area, said head for providing said water to said point of use.

14. The system of claim 13, further comprising a beam directing mechanism for directing light between a light exit port and said treatment area, whereby laser light can also be directed into the an area within a patient's mouth.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein said beam directing mechanism is a laser switching mechanism.

16. The system of claim 14 wherein said beam directing mechanism is a laser splitter.

17. A dental handpiece including a water line for providing water into a treatment area from a port formed in a head associated with the dental handpiece, said dental handpiece comprising:

a laser light source integrated within a dental handpiece housing, said laser light source for providing light from a laser to a water treatment area located near said head of said dental handpiece;

a water treatment area located near said head of said dental handpiece including a entry point for accepting water from a water source into said treatment area, and including an exit point for allowing water to pass from the treatment area toward a point of use through said head.

18. The dental handpiece of claim 17 wherein said treatment area is a junction box integrated within said dental handpiece and coupled to waterline tubing also integrated within said dental handpiece for providing water from a water source into said junction box near said head, wherein water is allowed to exit through said port after treatment by light within said junction box.

19. The dental handpiece of claim 18, wherein said laser light source includes fiber optic cable optically coupled to said junction box , wherein said fiber is coupled such that a window is formed at said junction box through which light is allowed to penetrate and treat water flowing through said treatment area and towards said point of use.

20. The dental handpiece of claim 17 wherein said water treatment area is a location formed by coupling fiber optic cable with waterline tubing near said head, wherein said fiber optic cable is optically integrated with said tubing causing a window through which light is allowed to penetrate and treat water flowing through said waterline tubing at said treatment area, and thereafter said water flows to said point of use.

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